

**City of Somerville, Health Department  
Report to Joint Public Health Board, Board of Health and Mayor's Office  
for December 2006**

**To be submitted January 9, 2007 to JPHB**

**Board of Health**

- We are recruiting a new Board member. 2 prospects will attend the January meeting of the Board of Health to learn about the workings of the Board

**Director's Updates**

**Emergency Preparedness**

- Participated in MDPH COOP training at UMass Boston
- Meet with UASI consultants on planning EDS sites

**Rodent Control**

- Director participates in Trash Ordinance Changes planning meetings, sends FAQ's for translation

**Active Living/ Shape Up Somerville/ HEBD**

- Facilitated communication with Mayors Office on launch of Fitness Buddies Program

**Public Health Nursing and School Nursing**

- Other Interviewed for Globe Magazine article on youth suicide
- Prepared Departmental information for Mayor's Mid-term address
- Participated in SCAP planning for Annual Meeting
- Presented to JPHB of Cambridge and Somerville on youth suicide and overdose
- Attended community meeting regarding 50 Tufts Street contaminated site

**Personnel**

- Participated in wage study calculations for Special Revenue employees
- Met with Mayor for Health Director Performance Evaluation
- Met with Personnel, Auditing and City Solicitor to discuss conversion of School Nurse to Public Health Nurse position
- Screened and interviewed potential student intern, forwarded to SUS and Women's Commission

**Health Inspectors**

**Sanitary Inspections**

- Responded to 11 complaints, 11 resolved
- Conducted 9 inspections of retail/food establishments, 5 reinspections
- Four new business inspections
- Six first visits to potential new businesses/progress checks
- Responded to 2 emergencies (burning smell in room 445 and an oil spill, both at the Somerville High School)
- Assisted the Somerville Police in issuing a warrant concerning shutting down power in several establishments
- Met and assisted the Neighborhood Impact Team

## Housing Inspections

Responded to 43 complaints, 33 resolved

- Conducted 5 full inspections, 1 lead determination
- Responded to 4 emergencies (carbon monoxide, fire, water main break, and a burning smell in room 445 at the Somerville High School)
- Met with Modern Pest Extermination for rodent control in the City of Somerville
- Collaborated with the Neighborhood Impact Team
- Issued trash & commercial tickets

## Public Health Nursing

- Investigated 15 communicable diseases
- Attended Pandemic Flu Tabletop Exercise at UMASS-Boston
- Attended EP-Pertussis Meeting at Somerville Hospital
- Met with EDS Consultant
- Attended UASI meeting

## School Nursing

- School Nurses had 2031 student encounters for illness assessment in the 16 school days of December
- School Nurses assessed 848 students for first aid or injuries in December
- School Nurses returned 2468 students to class after assessment dismissing only 327
- School Nurses are updating Asthma Action Plans for the 138 students who have PRN (as needed) prescriptions for asthma medication during school hours
- School Nurses continue to update Care Plans for the 45 students in our schools who carry Epi-pens for Life threatening allergies
- School Nurse Leader continues to attend emergency preparedness meetings and conferences locally as well as statewide
- School Nurse Leader continues to work with the PEP grant on health initiatives in the schools, attending two PEP meetings
- School Nurse Leader is collaborating with school physician to coordinate the gathering of asthma action plans from area physicians for all students with an asthma diagnosis
- School Nurse Leader continues to collaborate with School Superintendent and school Committee to update health related school policies and emergency plans
- School Nurse Leader attended Essential School Health Services grant meeting in Worcester
- Somerville school nurses will participate in a quality assurance project mandated by state targeting client satisfaction rates

## Somerville Commission for Women

- **Anti-violence:** *TADA* continues to thrive. An Anti-Violence Summit sponsored by the Somerville Commission for Women and TADA will be January 19 for teen groups at SHS such as TADA, GSA, SCAP, Mediators, etc. ***The Somerville Domestic Violence Taskforce*** met to refine its action agenda and will begin

committees to work on action items and refine objectives. The next meeting is January 25, 2006.

- **Collaboration:** the Women's Commission continues to work with nonprofit agencies to collaborate, communicate and bridge the distances. The Women's Commission worked to help to coordinate organizations regarding a recent immigrant family crisis. Next steps will be to create a protocol for helping agencies best provide appropriate services to immigrants facing crisis and be sure that immediate needs are being met with least amount of distress for the family, agencies and others involved.
- **Commissioners:** the Commission's next monthly meeting is December 20, 2006. We are increasing our numbers and hope to have another Commissioner added from our visitors.
- **Financial Literacy:** The Women's Commission will be working with other nonprofit agencies to develop a sustainable program aimed to empower people to take control of their finances. In addition, the executive director of the Women's Commission is developing a new model for micro-finance program for women entrepreneurs.

### **Somerville Cares About Prevention**

- Attendance at bi-weekly meetings with the Institute for Community Health to design and implement Coalition evaluation tools, such as the Coalition Member Database, Coalition Member Capacity information collection tool, Coalition Member Satisfaction Survey, as well as planning the development of an Environmental Strategies Tracking Database;
- Coordination and attendance at the Coalition's monthly Environmental Strategies Subcommittee meeting to review the success/challenges of the Sticker Shock Campaign and plan for the upcoming Shoulder Taps Campaign.
- Coordination and attendance at the Mayor's Opiate Prevention Taskforce Subcommittee meeting to discuss recent overdoses, prevention strategies, mission statement finalization, and outlining of Taskforce accomplishments to highlight at the Annual Meeting;
- Coordination and attendance at weekly Families Anonymous Meetings, as well as the provision of ongoing case management services to those in attendance around substance abuse/mental health prevention/treatment services;
- Coordination, facilitation, and attendance at weekly staff supervision meetings to create staff job descriptions and work plans, discuss and plan for Environmental Strategies project implementation, and events, as well as plan for the Annual Meeting;
- 1 Subcommittee of the Somerville School Committee;
- Attendance at the Licensing Commission meeting to stay abreast of alcohol licensing;
- Coordination, co-facilitation, and attendance at the Coalition's weekly Youth Activities Club (YAC) meeting at Somerville High School to plan substance free events;
- Coordination and facilitation of Coalition meetings to plan for the Annual Meeting;
- Participation at the Immigrant Health Fair to dispense flu shots to Somerville residents and provide Coalition information;
- Participation and attendance at the Metro West Provider meeting held by the Department of Public Health;
- Presentation of Coalition overview and goals to the Somerville Board of Health;

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- Meeting with the City's Auditing Department to become aware of fundraising guidelines;
- Coordination of the School Health Survey participants to plan the implementation of the 2007 Middle School Youth Risk Behavior Survey;
- One-on-One meeting with the grant writer for the Somerville Public Schools to discuss collaborative work and the implementation of science based programs at the schools;
- Implementation of Guiding Good Choices training to nine Somerville parents;
- Attendance and participation at a meeting with the Cambridge Prevention Coalition, Parent Professional Advocacy League (PPAL), the Institute for Community Health to discuss the role definition and recruitment of parent navigators and project implementation;
- Collaboration with Coalition service vendors, such as Concilio Hispano, Social Science Research and Evaluation, Inc, the Institute for Community Health, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the Regional Center for Healthy Communities to make revisions to their respective Memorandums of Understanding for future work;
- Attendance at the City of Somerville's monthly Health Department Staff meeting;
- Collaboration with Teen Empowerment to discuss the implementation of the anti-gang, youth violence grant;
- Revision and submission of a press release to address managing grief and loss during the holiday season;
- Collaborative meetings to translate cards dispensed to community members during the implementation of the upcoming Environmental Strategies Shoulder Taps Campaign;
- Ongoing creation of Environmental Strategies "Youth in Action" "how to" project binders;
- Attendance and participation at the Joint Public Health Board meeting for a presentation on Suicide/Overdose data of Somerville;
- Research and grant writing to reapply for Community Block Development Grant funding.

## **Tobacco Control**

### Youth Access

- Educational Mailings
  - Somerville: 117 pieces
  - Cambridge: 145 pieces
  - Chelsea: 59 pieces
  - Everett: 58 pieces
  - Revere: 79 pieces
  - Total: 458pieces
- Tobacco retailer compliance checks in:
  - Revere (Checked: 63 stores, Sales: 5, Fines: 5, Total: \$600. Rate of sale FY06: 3.0 %.
- Tobacco retailer educational inspections in:
  - Revere (Visited: 25, Stores with signage violations: 7, warnings: 7)
  - Chelsea (Visited: 60, Stores with signage violations: 44, warnings: 44)
  - Somerville (Visited: 2, Stores with signage violations: 1, warnings: 1)

### ETS

**Inspections:**

- Cambridge: 62 Visits, No violations.
- Chelsea: 60 Visits, Stores with signage violations: 16, warnings: 16, Smoking violations: 1, Fines: 1 (\$100).
- Revere: 25 Visits, No violations
- Somerville: 2 Visits, Stores with signage violations: 1, warning: 1)

**Trauma Response Network**

**Shape Up Somerville**

- Attended and facilitated three meetings with Cambridge Health Alliance's Cambridge Walks program in preparation for the Fitness Buddies program
- Attended and participated in the Voices of Inclusion: III conference on obesity at Northeastern University (December 12<sup>th</sup>)
- Facilitation: five one-on-one interviews with City Hall employees to gather opinion and data for SUS's January 2007 physical activity program, Fitness Buddies
- Facilitated 3 meetings with the City's Communications Office to promote Fitness Buddies
- Facilitated and participated in a meeting with Walk Boston: Mapping Somerville project
- Facilitated meeting with Personnel Department to gain City support for Fitness Buddies
- Participated in the Immigrant Providers' Group meeting